THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. As per Maruti Udyog Ltd., (MUL) it has not resorted to compulsory retirement of handicapped employees.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New heavy industry in Assam

2189. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any new heavy industry in hilly area of Assam during the years 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Heavy Industry has no proposal to set up any new public sector unit in hilly area of Assam during 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003.

News-item "Indian diesel engines are outdated"

2190. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian diesel engines are outdated", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 8th November, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the diesel engines are ancient and the economic figure for diesel engine cars is far below those of petrol engine cars;

(c) whether it is also a fact that particularly in Germany the technology on diesel engine has progressed tremendously; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to bring the Indian technology on diesel engine up-to-date?